BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

NATIVE LIVES, NATIVE STORIES

BOOKLIST FOR ADULTS, TEENS, & CHILDREN

2024

BPL.ORG

NATIVE LIVES, NATIVE STORIES

is a list of books published in the previous year about the experiences of Native and Indigenous communities throughout North America. This all-ages booklist has been an important part of the Boston Public Library's annual observance of Native American Heritage Month since 2021.

We would like to acknowledge the Massachusett Tribe, the indigenous peoples from whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has taken its name. We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusett Tribe and its descendants, who still inhabit historical Massachusett Tribe territories to this day.

Compiled by Boston Public Library staff:

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On the cover:
Brendan Shay Basham

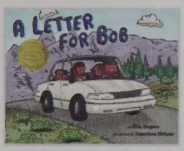
CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

Grandma's Tipi: A Present-Day Lakota Story

By S.D. Nelson (Standing Rock Sioux)

While visiting her grandma's reservation, Clara and her cousin are given the tipi that has been handed down through generations, which teaches them how to live in the great Circle of Life.

J PICTURE NELSON S



A Letter for Bob

By Kim Rogers (Wichita) & illustrated by Jonathan Nelson (Kiiyaa'áanii and Naakai Dine'é)

When it's time to say goodbye to the family car, a young girl writes a letter thanking it for all the places it took them.

J PICTURE ROGERS K

Minnow: The Girl Who Became Part Fish

By Willie Poll (Métis)

A young Indigenous water protector named Minnow goes on an underwater journey to learn from her ocean-living relatives. When she returns to the surface, she gathers her community to help make a change.

J PICTURE POLL W

J FRENCH PICTURE POLL W

My Powerful Hair

By Carole Lindstrom (Anishinabe/Métis) & illustrated by Steph Littlebird (Chinook and Kalapuyan)

A young girl looks forward to growing her hair long as a way to honor her family's history and Indigenous identity.

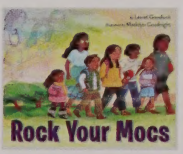
J PICTURE LINDSTRO C

Remember

By Joy Harjo (Mvskoke) & illustrated by Michaela Goade (Tlingit and Haida)

This picture book adaptation of US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo's iconic poem urges readers to pay attention to who they are, the world they were born into, and how everyone is connected.

J PICTURE HARJO J



Rock Your Mocs

By Laurel Goodluck (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Tsimshian) & illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight (Chickasaw)

Children from a variety of Native Nations show off their moccasins and celebrate their shoes' histories and significance.

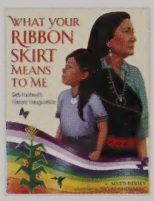
J PICTURE GOODLUCK L

Storyteller Skye: Teachings from My Ojibway Grandfather

By Lindsay Christina King (Ojibway)

Skye, a young Ojibway girl, relates funny Indigenous teachings that she learned from her grandfather.

J PICTURE KING L



What Your Ribbon Skirt Means to Me: Deb Haaland's Historic Inauguration

By Alexis Bunten (Aleut/Yup'ik)

Children at an Indigenous community center are filled with pride as they watch Secretary Deb Haaland wear a ribbon skirt to the White House as she becomes the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary.

J PICTURE BUNTEN A

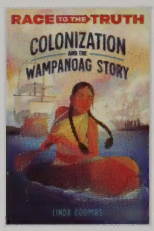
Winter's Gifts

By Kaitlin B. Curtice (Potawatomi) & illustrated by Gloria Félix (Purépecha)

A Potawatomi girl teaches her friends how to appreciate the rest and comfort that winter can bring.

J PICTURE CURTICE K

CHILDREN'S CHAPTER BOOKS



Colonization and the Wampanoag Story

By Linda Coombs (Aquinnah Wampanoag)

This is the true story of the founding and colonization of America, as told from the perspective of the New England Indigenous Nations.

J E99.A35 C58 2023

Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series

By Traci Sorell (Cherokee) & illustrated by Arigon Starr (Kickapoo)

This true story of baseball players John Meyers and Charles Bender teaches us about resilience and the fight for Native American representation in sports.

J BIOG GV865.M493 S67 2023

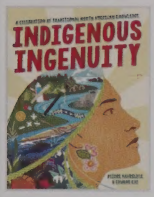
Heroes of the Water Monster

By Brian Young (Navajo)

Edward and Nathan, two Navajo stepbrothers, work with a young water monster named Dew to confront their past and save the world from a monstrous, Enemy that is stealing water from the Navajo Nation.

J FICTION YOUNG B

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook



Indigenous Ingenuity: A Celebration of Traditional North American Knowledge

By Deidre Havrelock (Cree) & Edward Kay & illustrated by Kalila Fuller (Indigenous)

This middle grade nonfiction work celebrates North American Indigenous knowledge and Native contributions to contemporary STEM subjects.

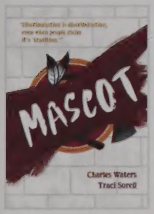
J GN476 .H38 2023

Lei and the Fire Goddess

By Malia Maunakea (Kānaka Maoli)

While in Hawaii visiting her grandmother, 12-year-old Anna Leilani Kama'ehu angers Pele, the fire goddess. To save her friends, family, and the island itself, Anna must undo the curse by embracing all of who she is.

J SCIFI FANTASY MAUNAKEA M



Mascot

By Charles Waters & Traci Sorell (Cherokee)

Six middle-schoolers with different backgrounds and beliefs learn about identity, tradition, and what it means to stand up for real change when their school's mascot is seen as racist.

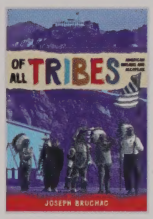
J FICTION WATERS C

No Place Like Home

By James Bird (Ojibwe)

Living in a car with his mother and brother, Ojibwe boy Opin longs for a stable home, especially when he meets a stray dog who needs him as much as he needs her.

J FICTION BIRD J

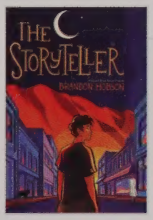


Of All Tribes: American Indians and Alcatraz

By Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki)

A history of the 19-month-long Occupation of Alcatraz in 1969, during which Native Americans who sought to reclaim their land garnered international focus on Native American rights, inspiring a new generation of Native activists.

J E78.C15 B74 2023



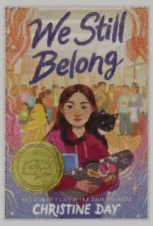
The Storyteller

By Brandon Hobson (Cherokee)

This kaleidoscopic middle-grade adventure mixes the anxieties, friendships, and wonders of a Cherokee boy's life with Cherokee history and lore.

J SCIFI FANTASY HOBSON B

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook



We Still Belong

By Christine Day (Upper Skagit)

Wesley's hopeful plans for Indigenous Peoples' Day (and asking her crush to the dance) go wrong — until she finds herself surrounded by the love of her Indigenous community at the intertribal powwow.

J FICTION DAY C

Harvest House

By Cynthia Leitich Smith (Muscogee Creek)

From supposed ghost sightings to reports of a man stalking young Indigenous women, something spooky is happening at the rural thrill attraction where Hughie works, and he's determined to find out what it is.

TEEN FICTION SMITH C

TEEN

Brooms

By Jasmine Walls & Teo Duvall (Chicanx)

In 1930s Mississippi, magic is simmering beneath the surface, kept in check by unjust laws and societal expectations. But for six extraordinary women, the roar of enchanted engines and the thrill of the forbidden broom race offer a chance to rewrite their destinies.

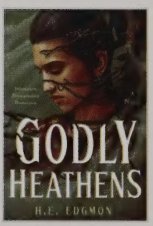
TEEN GRAPHIC BROOMS

Rez Ball

By Byron Graves (Ojibwe)

When the varsity basketball team members take him under their wing, Tre Brun, representing his Ojibwe reservation, steps into his late brother's shoes as star player. He soon learns, however, that he can't mess up — not on the court, not in school, and not in love.

TEEN FICTION GRAVES B

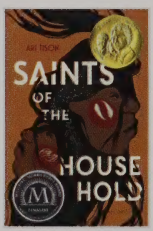


Godly Heathens

By H.E. Edgmon (Seminole)

Gem, a nonbinary Seminole, is rescued by a strange new girl who reveals they are reincarnated gods who've known and loved each other across lifetimes — and who have made enemies, including the Goddess of Death.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY EDGMON H



Saints of the Household

By Ari Tison (Bribri)

When they break up a fight that harms their school's star soccer player, two brothers look to their Bribri roots to avoid becoming as violent as their father.

TEEN FICTION TISON A

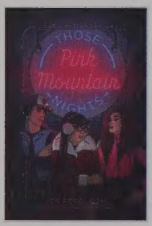
available as an audiobook
available as an eBook

This Indian Kid

By Eddie Chuculate (Creek and Cherokee)

In this coming-of-age memoir, Chuculate reflects on his Creek and Cherokee heritage, along with his difficult childhood in rural Oklahoma.

TEEN BIOG E99.C9 C48 2023



Those Pink Mountain Nights

By Jen Ferguson (Métis)

Three teens who work at the same pizza restaurant try to save the failing business while also investigating a missing friend.

TEEN FICTION FERGUSON J

To Shape a Dragon's Breath

By Moniquill Blackgoose (Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe)

Set in an alternative 1840s New England, an Indigenous teenager is honored by her people when she bonds with a baby dragon, but she is horrified by her repressive dragon school, run by Anglish conquerors.

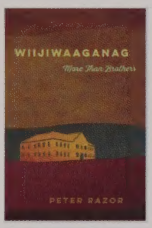
SCIFI FANTASY BLACKGOO M

Warrior Girl Unearthed

By Angeline Boulley (Ojibwe)

A group of Ojibwe teens plans a heist to recover their ancestors' stolen remains from a local college, while women in their community continue disappearing.

TEEN MYSTERY BOULLEY A



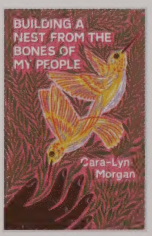
Wiijiwaaganag: More Than Brothers

By Peter Razor (Lake Superior Chippewa)

At a boarding school for Indigenous children in 1890s Minnesota, an Anishinaabe teen befriends the headmaster's nephew and teaches him about his culture and Ojibwemowin language.

TEEN FICTION RAZOR P

EXPRESSIONS



Building a Nest from the Bones of My People

By Cara-Lyn Morgan (Métis)

From the pain of estrangement to navigating motherhood in the midst of a family crisis, Morgan explores the complexities of generational and secondary abuse, intertwined with the impacts of colonization.

PR9199.4.M656177 B85 2023

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook

Chímí Nu'am: Native California Foodways for the Contemporary Kitchen

By Sara Calvosa Olson (Karuk)

Olson reimagines the oldest foods in California for home cooks today, sharing more than 70 recipes using a rich array of Indigenous ingredients.

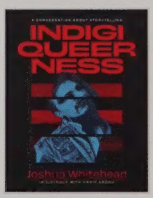
TX369 .C35 2023

From Unincorporated Territory [åmot]

By Craig Santos Perez (Chamorro)

Perez's collection of experimental and visual poems dives into the history and culture of his homeland of Guam.

PS3619.A598 A6 2023x



Indigiqueerness: A Conversation about Storytelling

By Joshua Whitehead (Oji-Cree)

Beginning with memories of his childhood and traveling through the library of his life, Whitehead contemplates the role of theory, Indigenous language, queerness, and fantastical worlds in all his artistic pursuits.

PR9199.4.W4745 Z46 2023

Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America

By Matika Wilbur (Swinomish and Tulalip)

A photographic and narrative celebration of contemporary Native American life and cultures, alongside an in-depth examination of the issues faced by Native peoples.

E77.5 W55 2023

Removal Acts: Poems

By Erin Marie Lynch (Ihanktonwan Dakota and Standing Rock Sioux)

Drawing its title from the 1863 Federal Act banishing the Dakota people from their homelands, this poetry collection reckons with the present-day repercussions of state violence.

PS3612.Y5417 R46 2023

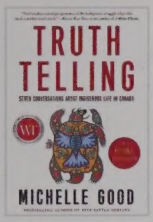
Seed to Plate, Soil to Sky: Modern Plant-based Recipes Using Native American Ingredients

By Lois Ellen Frank (Kiowa) & Walter Whitewater (Diné)

Using the "Magic 8" Native American plants — corn, beans, squash, chile, tomato, potato, vanilla, and cacao — Frank presents more than 100 plant-based recipes to transform your cooking.

TX837.F675 2023

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook



Truth Telling: Seven Conversations about Indigenous Life in Canada

By Michelle Good (Cree)

From racism, broken treaties, and cultural pillaging to the value of Indigenous lives and literature, Good reveals facts about Indigenous life in Canada that are both devastating and enlightening.

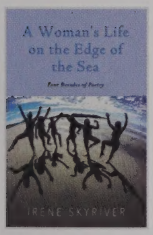
TX837 .F675 2023

Where the Sea Kuniks the Land

By Ashley Qilavaq-Savard (Inuk)

These poems extend the traditional "kunik" Inuit greeting given to loved ones as a gesture of love to the Arctic landscape.

PR9199.4.Q45 W44 2022



A Woman's Life on the Edge of the Sea: Four Decades of Poetry

By Irene Skyriver (Tlingit and Makah)

Skyriver's poetry delves deep into her family, heritage, and the richness of nature and Mother Earth.

PS3619.K97 W66 2023

Yáamay: An Anthology of Feminine Perspectives Across Indigenous California

By Camaray Davalos (Payómkawichum & Xicana), Avelaka Macarro (Pechanga Band of Indians), & Rebecca Macarro (Payómkawichum/Pechanga)

A collection of poetry, artwork, and essays specific to what is now known as Southern California. Written in four parts (Root, Sleep/Dormant, Cultivate, and Bloom), the lead authors explore the eras of pre-contact, post-contact, present, and future.

PS508.I5 Y326 2023

FICTION

And Then She Fell

By Alicia Elliott (Tuscarora)

A mind-bending, razor-sharp look at motherhood and mental health that follows a young Indigenous woman who discovers that the picture-perfect life she always hoped for may have horrifying consequences.

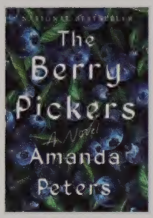
FICTION ELLIOTT A

Bad Cree

By Jessica Johns (Sucker Creek First Nation)

After having nightmares, being stalked by crows, and receiving threatening texts, a young Cree woman returns to her hometown to uncover the truth about her sister's death.

FICTION JOHNS J

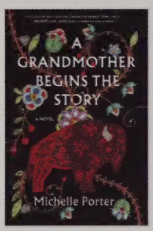


The Berry Pickers

By Amanda Peters (Mi'kmaq)

A four-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, sparking a tragic mystery that haunts the survivors, unravels a community, and remains unsolved for nearly fifty years.

FICTION PETERS A



A Grandmother Begins the Story

By Michelle Porter (Métis)

The story of the unrivaled desire for healing and the power of familial bonds across five generations of Métis women and the land and bison that surround them.

FICTION PORTER M

The Half-White Album

By Cynthia J. Sylvester (Diné)

Told from the perspective of an urban Native, this powerful debut collection of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction explores lives lived between worlds via the story of a journey led by the nomadic band, the Covers.

FICTION SYLVESTE C

Hold Your Tongue

By Matthew Tétreault (Métis)

A young man struggles to take responsibility for his life while tensions over language and culture, exacerbated by the deteriorating condition of his great uncle, drive him to make sense of his family's past.

FICTION TETREAUL M

Kukum

By Michel Jean (Innu)

This Québec bestseller based on the life of Michel Jean's great-grandmother delivers an empathetic portrait of drastic change in an Innu community.

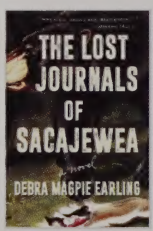
FICTION JEAN M

Lizards Hold the Sun

By Dani Trujillo (Pueblo)

Xiomara has dedicated her life to the preservation of her Mexican homeland. Faced with her most remote project yet, she must rely on the help of an aloof museum architect while trying to ignore the sparks between them.

ROMANCE TRUJILLO D



The Lost Journals of Sacajewea

By Debra Magpie Earling (Bitterroot Salish)

A new perspective on what is known, and debated, about the life of Sacajewea. In poetic prose, this novel interweaves factual accounts of Sacajewea's life with a first-person narrative deeply rooted in the physicality of landscape and brutality of her times.

FICTION EARLING D

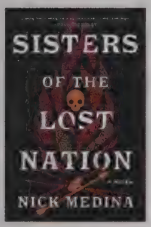
available as an audiobook
available as an eBook

Never Whistle At Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology

Edited by Shane Hawk (Cheyenne-Arapaho, Hidatsa and Potawatomi) & Theodore C. Van Alst, Jr. (Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians)

An anthology celebrating Indigenous peoples' survival and imagination, reveling in all the things an ill-advised whistle might summon.

FICTION NEVER WHISTLE AT



Sisters of the Lost Nation

By Nick Medina (Tunica-Biloxi)

A haunted young Native girl's search for answers about the women mysteriously disappearing from her reservation leads her to delve into the myths and stories of her people, all while being haunted herself.

FICTION MEDINA N

Swim Home to the Vanished

By Brendan Shay Basham (Diné)

After the death of his brother, grief-stricken Damien seeks comfort in a secluded fishing village dominated by a family of brujas. Soon, Damien finds himself caught in a power struggle between the brujas, a whirlwind battle that threatens to sweep the whole village out to sea.

FICTION BASHAM B

Tauhou

By Kōtuku Titihuia Nuttall (Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, W̱SÁNEĆ)

Nuttal explores an innovative shared past between two Indigenous cultures set on reimagined versions of Vancouver Island and Aotearoa New Zealand that now sit side by side in the ocean.

FICTION NUTTALL K

Urbane

By Anna Marie Sewall (Mi'gmaq and Anishinaabe)

Having survived a stint as a werewolf's accomplice, Detective Hazel LeSage teams up with Shanaya Bhattacharya, whose thirst for justice leads them into a deadly conspiracy entangling the rural lands surrounding their home city of Amiskwaciy.

FICTION SEWALL A

VenCo

By Cherie Dimaline (Métis)

A young Métis woman connects with a network of witches hoping to reunite the legendary seven spoons, thus allowing women to reclaim their rightful power.

FICTION DIMALINE C

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook

MEMOIR

Birding While Indian: A Mixed-Blood Memoir

By Thomas C. Gannon (Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe)

Gannon catalogs a lifetime of bird sightings to explore his search for identity and his reckoning with colonialism's violence against Indigenous humans, animals, and land.

BIOG E99.T34 G36 2023

E Nâtamukw Miyeyimuwin: Residential School Recovery Stories of the James Bay Cree

By Ruth Dyckfehderau & James Bay Cree Storytellers (Cree)

A collection of stories of James Bay Cree people recovering from Indian Residential School trauma and, in the aftermath, building meaningful lives.

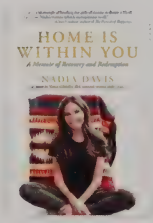
BIOG E96.65.Q3 D93 2023

The Gift of Knowledge: Ttnúwit Átawish Nch'inch'imamí: Reflections on Sahaptin Ways

By Virginia R. Beavert (Yakama Nation)

Beavert shares highlights from her life and presents cultural teachings, oral history, and stories (many in bilingual Ishishkíin-English format) about family life, religion, ceremonies, food gathering, and other aspects of traditional culture.

BIOG E99.42 B43 2023



Home is Within You: A Memoir of Recovery and Redemption

By Nadia Davis (Latina and Native American)

In the face of mental health struggles, addiction, and public shaming, Davis, a Latina and Native American lawyer, reveals the depths of the darkness she went through, while gracefully offering transformational healing and an end to the choking grasp of shame.

BIOG HV6626.22.C2 D38 2023

Jesintel: Living Wisdom from Coast Salish Elders

Edited by Edited by Darrell Hillaire (Lummi)

Coast Salish culture is bound together by shared values and relations that generate a resilient worldview. Jesintel — "to learn and grow together" — characterizes the spirit of this book, which brings the cultural teachings of nineteen elders to new generations.

BIOG E99.S21 J49 2023

available as an audiobook
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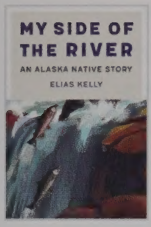


My Side of the River: An Alaska Native Story

By Elias Kelly (Yup'ik)

Combining memoir with the stories of his elders, Kelly examines the impact of Federal- and state-regulated resource conservation on the traditional lives and subsistence methods of Native Alaskans.

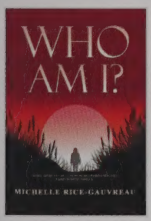
E99.E7 K415 2023

Survival Food: North Woods Stories by a Menominee Cook

By Thomas Pecore Weso (Menominee Indian Nation of Wisconsin)

In these coming-of-age tales set on the Menominee Indian Reservation of the 1980s and 1990s, Weso explores the interrelated nature of meals and memories.

BIOG E99.M44 W47 2023



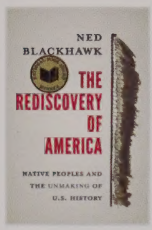
Who Am I?

By Michelle Rice-Guavreau (Mohawk)

Born in Canada as a native Mohawk, Michelle Rice-Gauvreau's life took a sharp turn when she was illegally adopted and raised in Connecticut. These experiences have honed her into a fierce advocate for adoptees seeking their own truths and origins.

BIOG E99.M8 R53 2023

NONFICTION

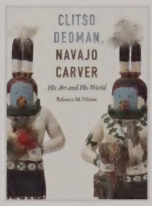


The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History

By Ned Blackhawk (Western Shoshone)

Blackhawk's retelling of U.S. history acknowledges the enduring power, agency, and survival of Indigenous peoples, revealing anew the varied and true meanings of America.

E77 .B64 2023



Clitso Dedman, Navajo Carver: His Art and His World

By Rebecca M. Valette

An account of how Clitso Dedman brought the art of carving to his people and became one of the most important, but overlooked, Navajo artists of his generation.

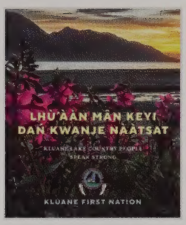
BIOG E99.N3 D358

JAJ: A Haida Manga

By Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas (Haida)

With gorgeous imagery, visual artist Yahgulanaas brings to life the tumultuous history of first contact between Europeans and Indigenous peoples and the early European colonization of the northern West Coast.

GRAPHIC PN6733.Y34 J35 2023

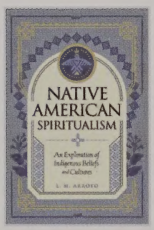


Lhù'ààn Mân Keyí Dan Kwánje Na`àtsat: Kluane Lake Country People Speak Strong

By Kluane First Nation Elders (Kluane First Nation)

Kluane First Nation Elders share stories from their lives, knowledge of their traditional territory (Á sì Keyi, "my grandfather's country"), and insights about the building of their self-governing First Nation.

BIOG E78.Y8 L48 2023

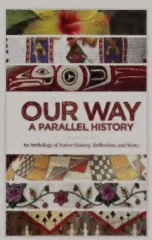


Native American Spiritualism

By L.M. Arroyo

Arroyo explores the spiritual practices, legends, and traditions of various Indigenous tribes throughout the North American continent.

E98.R3 A77 2023

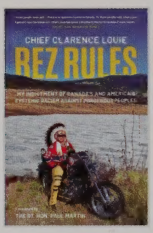


Our Way — a Parallel History: An Anthology of Native History, Reflection, and Story

Edited by Julie Cajune (Salish)

This anthology addresses the absence of information about American Indian, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian people in US History, exploring the ways in which indigenous cultures have influenced American society from past to present.

E76.8 .087 2023



Rez Rules: My Indictment of Canada's and America's Systemic Racism Against Indigenous Peoples

By Chief Clarence Louie (Osoyoos Indian Band)

A common-sense blueprint for the future of First Nations, as told through the fascinating life and legacy of a remarkable leader.

E92 .L68 2021

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